

>> around the corner, I still have him in my sights.

Next thing I know, he bolts out from behind his cover, raises his weapon and he's still got that big, scary, Halloween mask on. But when he brought up that weapon, I mean, he was probably 15 feet away. I can literally visualize the end of that weapon, and that barrel looked like it was huge. As soon as he brought it up and it was level with my head, I put one round in him. It hit him in the shoulder. I shot and he fell and slid, kind of like a baseball slide. He just slides and almost lands right in front of me.

I still have my weapon trained on him, still telling him, 'Drop your weapon!' It was still literally in his hand. I'm telling him, 'Don't you move, get your hand off the weapon! Get your hand off the weapon!'

The adrenaline is going. I'm really focused. I get on my radio as soon as I fire my shot and he falls. I don't know how I had the presence of mind to do this, but I said, 'Officer involved shooting, I need EMS, signal 9,' which means emergency traffic.

The next thing I know, I hear Mason Dale get on the radio and say, 'Shots fired, shots fired!' He's at the front of the store, and he doesn't know what's going on.

I'm still covering him, still giving him loud commands, 'Get your hand off the weapon! Don't you move!' Next thing I know, here comes Duvall and Dale. They've run in not knowing what in the world is going on. I have to give kudos to them. They don't know if I'm shot, they don't know if anybody's shot, but they come busting in there like Batman and Robin. So they jump over the counter and Dale immediately kicks the weapon out from his reach and they roll him over onto his back. I tell them, 'Watch him guys, I don't think I hit him.' Because there's no blood anywhere. I know if I shot him with a one ounce slug at 15 feet there's going to be blood.

That's when I look up and, at KFC, they have those big, glass windows from floor to ceiling. I start looking at the glass thinking I've missed this guy. I'm looking for a bullet hole and thinking, 'Man, I hope I didn't

miss this guy, and it went somewhere out in the public.' Duvall and Dale roll him over, and when they do, they jerk the mask off of him. Then they start taking layers of clothes off. He had on a big, thick, heavy Carhartt jacket. They take that off. Then he's got a hooded sweatshirt on. They take that off. Then he has another shirt on, and they take that off. Then I see he's wearing a bullet proof vest. I was like, 'holy crap.'

About that time, here comes the cavalry.

There are sheriff's deputies at the front door, Kentucky State Police troopers, fellow Richmond officers, the ambulance shows up. They're starting to do their thing, taping everything off, and all of a sudden, an officer says, 'He's been hit.' He starts bleeding from the hole right there. So they immediately start pressure. EMS does what they have to do, loads him up in the ambulance and they're gone.

I thought, I've hit him in that bullet proof vest, and that has slowed the slug down enough to where it's not a fatal injury. I know the paramedics who showed up, because I work with them. So, after about 15 minutes, I call the paramedics and I'm just thinking they took him to Pattie A. Clay [Regional Medical Center in Richmond].

I said, 'Hey, this is Rouse, how's that guy doing?'

They said, 'We're doing CPR on him.'

I said, 'Is he injured that bad?'

'Yeah, the bullet didn't hit the vest, it went under his arm straight through his chest.'

I got really nervous, because now I was starting to come down off that rush, you're starting to rationalize things and trying to piece things together exactly as it happened. I was thinking, this is what we're trained for. I mean, this is stuff you see on TV. I wasn't thinking that in my head, but you're like, 'Did that really happen?'

I knew since it was an officer involved shooting there was going to be an investigation. I started trying to remember as much as I could. It really hit me right then, that guy was going to execute those two people. Let me back up. When EMS comes and takes this guy away, they find the other two employees locked in there. I had no idea they were there. I start realizing, that guy would have killed everybody in that



▲ Richmond Police Sr. Patrolman Kelly Rouse, left, was presented with a plaque honoring him as the 2011 American Police Hall of Fame Officer of the Year. Richmond Police Chief Larry Brock, right, attended the Florida ceremony recognizing Rouse.